

(a) to (d) The Committee of Secretaries meets to discuss important issues referred to it by Departments/Ministries. It makes recommendations which are considered by the competent authority for an appropriate decision. The Committee of Secretaries which met on 2.6.2004 considered the question of purchase preference for Kendriya Bhandar and made certain recommendations. However, the Ministry of Finance, after extensive review, issued new GFR 2005 modifying provisions of GFR 1963. That Ministry later clarified that the special dispensation of Kendriya Bhandar etc. would no longer be available under the new GFRs and Government Departments etc. should procure stationery and other items strictly in accordance with the provisions of the GFRs.

Training for the Commonwealth Games

193. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any planning for training of the sportspersons for the coming Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of facilities being granted for giving training to the sportspersons for Commonwealth Games; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Government is providing assistance to the National Sports Federations (NSFs) for training and participation of sportspersons in international sports events abroad, organization of national/international tournaments in India, training/coaching of national level sportspersons/teams under Indian and foreign coaches with requisite technical & scientific backup, procurement of sports equipment etc. A proposal/Scheme for improving medal prospects of Indian sportspersons in the Commonwealth Games, 2010, is also under consideration. In this context the Government is also reviewing the various components of the

existing scheme of "Assistance to National Sports Federations". Action is separately underway for upgrading and strengthening the infrastructure for training purposes by the Sports Authority of India.

Monitoring of Economic Trends

194. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the economic trends on a regular basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the comments of the Prime Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Government monitors various economic trends, such as gross domestic product (GDP), prices and inflation, money supply, international trade, balance of payments, etc. on a regular basis. The data on GDP are disseminated on a quarterly and annual basis by Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Different agencies are involved in monitoring the trends in specific sectors and in prices and inflation, viz. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Labour and Reserve Bank of India. Money supply and balance to payments trends are monitored by the Reserve Bank of India, while the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics monitors the trends in imports and exports of commodities.

Squeezing of non-plan expenditure

195. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Planning Commission is concerned about consequences of States' squeezing non-plan expenditure to bring down fiscal deficits;

(b) if so, whether no fresh recruitment in education and health sector by States to check their wage bill, programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Health Mission could become a sufferer;